

Guard unit is expected to come home before the holidays. This will surely be an early Christmas present for many families across the region of the country I am here to serve. I look forward to welcoming them home.

All of our servicemembers deserve our full support year-round, but let us please take this holiday season as an opportunity to thank them for their sacrifices that they have given to their families and to our country. Let us be there for them now, because they are there for us.

AMERICA CAN DO BETTER

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we end this particular legislative session, I just wanted to rise and say that, on the one hand, the vast majority of Members voted to run the government of the United States prudently and within budget and to operate as adults over the next 2 years; on the other hand, the lack of a provision in that bill to accommodate those who are unemployed across this country is a sad commentary on the leadership of this House.

In the State of Ohio where Speaker BOEHNER hails from, over half of the counties in Ohio are above the national unemployment average of 7 percent, which is way too high for the country as a whole. For us as a Chamber not to be able to include, especially before Christmas and the holiday season, the extension of unemployment benefits even for a few months for people who will now face Christmas and the new year with even more worry and hardship is unconscionable for this Nation. I just know that we are capable of better.

I would suggest to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee that if you shaved 1 percent off of every account in the discretionary part of the budget, you would be able to find the money to extend the benefits for 3 more months, and then we can look toward a more permanent solution from the Ways and Means Committee.

I am thankful for the opportunity to make this important statement for the RECORD. America can do better for our unemployed.

NELSON MANDELA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this moment for the House to appropriately acknowledge the life and legacy, the truly extraordinary leadership, of President Nelson Mandela who has passed on to history now but who, during his 95 years, played an extraordinary role in the life of his country

and his countrymen. And this Congress played a part in that process through the debates on this floor and through, finally, the passage of sanctions and then, even more so, by overriding the Presidential veto and putting into place sanctions that President Mandela indicated and all recognized played an important role in ending apartheid in South Africa.

There are Members who are no longer Members of the House, some of whom have even passed on themselves. There was Congressman Bill Gray from Philadelphia, who authored the sanctions legislation; Congressman Dellums, who had previously authored and fought side by side; and many members of the Congressional Black Caucus and others, Democrats and Republicans, on the floor of this House who were involved in this activity.

I rise for this Special Order to appropriately pay tribute to the leadership that was exhibited by President Mandela and his African National Congress. I am going to yield to Members for an opportunity for them to reflect on the life of President Mandela. Obviously, we recognize that he was born and that he died, that he went to school and he played certain roles in his profession as a lawyer, but he has also been recognized around the world for the struggle that he led and that he dedicated his life to.

I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Mr. FATTAH, for leading this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the life and legacy of former South African President Nelson Mandela, a relentless pioneer for justice, equality, and democracy.

I am proud to say that members of the Congressional Black Caucus stood with President Mandela before it was popular or politically advantageous. Working with grassroots advocates, members of the Congressional Black Caucus and many others from across the world, Mandela activated a movement that not only spoke of democracy and equality, but realized those principles through action, meaningful action that ultimately broke the chains of apartheid and will be forever remembered as the legacy of Madiba.

Today, the CBC salutes the life of a world leader who sacrificed a lifetime for the ideals of democracy. Today, we celebrate the life of a man from humble beginnings who overcome the obstacles of racial intolerance and rose to lead a country and a people to prosperity and freedom. Today, we cherish the life of a President who led with dignity and strength. Today, we treasure the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. Madiba, you will forever be remembered.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlewoman, and I thank her for her leadership on this House floor on behalf of not just the people she represents in Ohio, but throughout the country.

I now yield to someone who is no stranger to struggle. Nelson Mandela, when asked about his life being a struggle, he said, No, you misinterpret; the struggle was my life. Well, the struggle is this gentleman's life. I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague for yielding.

I rise to join my colleagues to pay tribute to a man I deeply admire, President Nelson Mandela.

When I first met Mr. Mandela, I felt as if I was touching the spirit of greatness. He was tall and graceful with the common spirit of the Dalai Lama. President Mandela was one of those rare individuals, like Gandhi, Lincoln, or King, who come along only once in a generation and who are a lesson to all humanity. They teach us not just to liberate the body, but to free our minds and unleash the power of the human spirit.

This weekend, I had the honor of traveling with Members of the House and one Member of the Senate to attend an official memorial service in South Africa. I would like to thank the Speaker and his staff for working with Chairwoman Fudge to ensure that Congress was represented at this global tribute.

Tonight, I express my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of President Mandela. To the people of South Africa and the global community, we have lost a giant of a man who embodied grace, dignity, and peace. He just walked out of prison after 27 years without any bitterness, hostility, or hatred. And through the power of love and complete forgiveness, President Mandela not only freed the oppressed, but he also freed the oppressor.

What we know of his long walk to freedom, what he endured and what he overcome, has made us all a little more human. What he taught us about reconciliation, love, and inner peace inspires each and every person who knows his story to be better, stronger, more loving, more peaceful citizens of the global community. He was the father of a new South Africa who helped build a new nation, more focused on unity today than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, during the height of the civil rights movement, the chant of the African people became our chant: "One man, one vote." He was a great leader, but I never thought that I would have the honor of meeting him and calling him my friend, my brother.

During this holiday season, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers will use this time to reflect on how we can be representatives of the people, can continue to work in unity, extend the legacy of love of service and respect for all humankind as Mr. NELSON Mandela did.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I met President Mandela on a number of occasions, both in Philadelphia and here